

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BDIS, ID

SUBJECT: ESSENTIAL OIL SWINDLE

REFS: JAKARTA 15541

1. MINISTRY OF TRADE'S REPORTED ACTION AGAINST FARMAPORT HAS BEEN DISMISSED AS A "JOKE" BY NEW YORK IMPORTERS IN ABSENCE OF ANY SIGN THAT GOI IS COMPELLING FARMAPORT TO MAKE RESTITUTION. THEY ADD THAT THEY ARE ALSO RECENT VICTIMS OF NEW CASES OF ESSENTIAL OIL ADULTERATION BY HEXALINE GLYCOL INVOLVING TWO JAKARTA FIRMS -- P.T. FARINDO AND P.T. FRAGRANCE.

2. WHILE SOME IMPORTERS AND MANUFACTURERS ARE QUITE DEPENDENT ON INDONESIAN OILS, OTHERS ARE NOT. ONE HAS SAID HE WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE HEREAFTER BUYING CITRONELLA AND CLOVELEAF OILS FROM CHINA AND MADAGASCAR AND INTENDS TO DO SO RATHER THAN CONTINUING TO DEAL WITH INDONESIANS.

3. AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION, REACTION REPORTED PARA TWO MAY BE PASSED TO DRS. IBRAHIM. IT COULD SERVE AS USEFUL REMINDER THAT ONE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF SLACK QUALITY CONTROLS AND NON-PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDING EXPORTERS IS THAT

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OVERSEAS MARKETS ARE REDUCED FOR PRODUCTS WHICH IN THIS CASE ESPECIALLY BENEFIT LOW-INCOME FARMERS. ROBINSON

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